

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2004 and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1- 46 remain pending in this application.

Interview Summary

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the telephone discussion with Examiner Manuel and Applicant's attorney David W. Black on June 18, 2004. Selected portions of pending claim 28 and Barreras (U.S. 5,807,397) were discussed. The interview included a discussion of functional and structural language. It was agreed that the provisional double patenting rejection is to be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 28, 31, 36-40, 42-46 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 41-46 of co-pending Application No. 10/025,183.

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 804, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the provisional double patenting rejection and allow the application to issue as a patent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-27.

Claims 29, 30, 32-35 and 41 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 29, 30, 32-35 and 41 depend from claims which are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that upon withdrawal of the above-noted provisional double patenting rejection, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6911 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

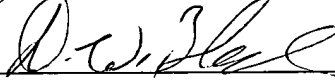
Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY A. VON ARX ET AL.

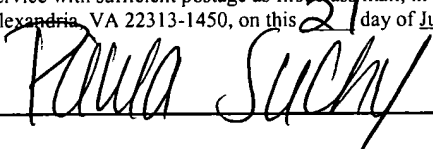
By their Representatives,

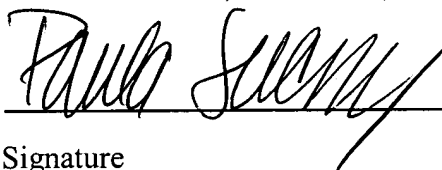
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Date June 21, 2004

By 
David W. Black
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, MS: Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 21 day of June, 2004.


Name


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